Numb. 82.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Foreign News. The Affairs of the North. *Remarks on the Commons Addreſs to the Queen. The Story of the* Whiskers *and the* Mag-pye.

From Saturday January the 30th, to Wednesday February the 3d, 170⅘.

Obſ. WHat News this Bout from *London*? I hope the Town is not Barren.

Country-m. No indeed, Sir, 'tis the moſt Fertile Place in the Univerſe. Barren! Sir, there is more Fruit grows in thoſe Paved Stones, than on all the Arable Land in this Country. We have but *One Whore* in our Pariſh, and that is Goodman——'s Daughter, and at *London* there are whole Cart Loads of Whores ſent to *Bride-well* in one Week. The *Knaves* indeed have the good Luck to eſcape that Colledge, but the Number of them is as Numerous as the *Whores*, who, poor Jades muſt ſuffer for themſelves and their Sparks alſo; to ennumerate all the ſorts of Fruit that Soil affords, is impoſſible; but I wiſh the Town was Barren of *Pick-Pockets*; for like a Blockhead as I was, as I was coming over *London-Bridge*, I ſtood ſtaring at St. *Magnus* Dial, to ſee how my time ſtood for coming home, and a *Rogue* or a *Whore*, I can't tell which, emptied my Pockets of all my Caſh, ſo that I had not enough left to pay for the ſtanding of my Horſe in the *Burrough*.

Obſ. I know *London* is Fruitful enough in that ſort of Cattle you ſpeak of. The nearer the Church, the farther from God. You had better have gone into the Watch-makers Shop at St. *Margarets Hill*, than have look'd what was a Clock at the Church Dial. But pray, honeſt *Country-man*, what Foreign News? And what Publick Diſcourſe at Home?

Country-m. The Foreign Prints ſay, that the Affairs in the *North* are not yet adjuſted; that the Breach betwixt *Sweden* and *Poland* is likely to continue; and ſome People at *London* are of an Opinion, that the King of *Sweden* is in a *French* Intereſt, tho' you have hitherto been of a contrary Judgment.

Obſ. I pay no more Reſpect to a Crowned Head than another, but while he keeps within the Bounds of Juſtice. The King of *Sweden* had the juſteſt Cauſe of Hoſtility that ever yet a Prince had. *Poland* invaded his Territories in time of Peace, without any Remonſtration or Declaration of War. There was no Pretence of *Breach of Treaty* or *Solemn Covenants* betwixt the two Crowns, and *Riga* was ſurpriz'd by a Siege before the *Swedes* were in a Condition to defend themſelves. And by Subſequent Occurrences, during this War in the *North*, we may Rationally conclude, that the King of *Poland* was entred into an Alliance with the Czar of *Muſcovy* before the Rupture. What could *Sweden* do under theſe Circumſtances, but make a Vigorous Effort in Defence of it ſelf? No private Perſon attack'r, but would have done the like, much more a Kingdom. And when God had ſo wonderfully Bleſt the *Swediſh* Arms againſt *Muſcovy* and *Poland*, in ſo many Battels and Skirmiſhes, can it be imagined that *Sweden* would not make the moſt of ſuch ſignal Succeſſes, and follow the ſtroke 'till her Enemies were in a Condition never more to moleſt her State?

Poland, as I ſaid before, was in no wiſe irritated to make an Incurſion into the *Swediſh* Territories; and if the King of *Sweden* has now attack'd *Poland* in the ſenſible part, by marching its Army into the Bowels of that Kingdom, the *Polanders* may e'en thank their King for their Misfortune; ſince he was the Aggreſſor in the War.

As to the King of *Sweden*'s being in a *French* Intereſt (tho occurring Circumſtances may create ſuch a Belief) I cannot yet believe it Matter of Fact; ſince the Intereſt of *Sweden*, rightly conſidered, cannot admit of ſuch a Suggeſtion. I know not how far a young Prince *Crown'd with Victory*, and *Exaſperated by Injuries* to Revenge, may exceed the Bounds of Prudence, yet ſurely he has ſuch Miniſters about him, whoſe *Experience* and *Judgement* is ſo Matur'd by Age, as not to adviſe him into an Alliance which would prove his Ruine.

Sweden always cannot act ſo much againſt the Intereſt of the Powers Confederated againſt *France* and *Spain*, his Alliance with *France* can laſt no longer than during the War; for when *France* is brought to Diſcretion, and *Spain* is reduced to the Government of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, the Confederates will have an Eye upon *Sweden*; for all *Exorbitant* and *Oppreſſive Powers* muſt be check'd, if the Ballance of *Europe* be maintain'd. What Home-News have you got?

Country-m. Here is one thing I take Notice of in the Votes of the Houſe of Commons, *viz.* Their Addreſs to the Queen, That Her Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to concert Methods for the furniſhing Her Majeſties Forces in *Holland* and *Flanders*, as far as 'tis poſſible, with the Manufactures, Corn, and other Produce of *England*. The Addreſs indeed is very Reaſonable and Juſt, and this is done like a good true *Engliſh* Parliament. But from this Addreſs, I conclude it has been otherwiſe.

Obſ. Yes, yes, Sir, ſo it has; and 'tis well for our Nation that our Repreſentatives have taken Effectual Notice of it, ſo as to have it prevented for the future: In the late War our Manufactures ſuffered much on this Account; I never ſpeak of any things of this Nature but upon undeniable Proof from Men of Integrity, or of my own Knowledge.

In the late War I had Intelligence from *Holland* that great Quantities of *Dutch* Arms were brought

brought up there or in *Flanders*, and ſent for *England*, I told the *Gunſmiths* of it, who knew it to be true, but could not acquaint me with the Methods of bringing them over. Upon a nice Enquiry, I found that theſe Arms were brought over on the Ships taken up for Tranſport Service, and carried as if they had been the Kings Stores into the Tower, and ſome time afterwards brought thence into the Kings *Proving-Houſe* on *Tower-Wharf*, and thence delivered to the Chapmen; for this Trade was carried on by the Kings own Officers in the Tower. A Ship arriving from *Williamſtadt* with a great Quantity of theſe Arms, when the *Proving-Houſe* was full of them, I gave information thereof to an Officer of the Cuſtoms, who ſeized them, and carried them into the Kings Ware-houſe at the *Cuſtom-Houſe*. Upon Proſecution in the *Exchequer*, a Writ of Appraiſment was granted, but before we could come to Condemnation, a *Noli Proſequi* was alſo granted; and ſo a ſtop was put to the Proſecution; but I ſtill inſiſting upon the ſaid Proſecution, becauſe one half of thoſe Arms belonged to my ſelf, according to the Act of Parliament; The Parties concerned got a Letter of Compoſition, and the Buſineſs was compounded by the Officer, contrary to my Knowledge and Approbation, and he received 150 *l.* from the Tower Officers, upon Compoſition, but never paid me my Juſt Share of that Money. Hereupon I had recourſe to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, by way of Petition for Relief, but they being great Men, and having no great Affection for the Diſcoverers of Frauds, like *Jupiter*, were not at Leiſure to hear ſmall Complaints, but referr'd it to be examined and Reported by their Sollicitor. I waited on that Worthy Spark, and told him my Tale, I think 'tis about three Years ago, and I have never heard one Word of the Buſineſs ſince that Time.

Country-m. And will you be Cheated at this Rate?

Obſ. Prithee who can help it? The Officers are ſtill in Being, and in good Employments; but ſuch as ſerved their Country in the *Diſcovery of Frauds*, have hitherto met with ſuch Treatment; 9 or 10 Months was nothing to give Attendance in the Diſcovery of National Abuſes, and Diſcoverers were all that time Brow-beaten by the Land Pirates; and tho' the Nation got never ſo many Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* by your good Service, you met with no other Reward at the Treaſury than a flap with a *Foxes Tail*. They try'd all Means poſſible to tire out the Patience of Men, by perpetual Delays from one Board to another, and ſtill the Criminals were *Judges in their own Cauſe*, and left to make a Report *in their own Favour*. Of the many Tryals of this Nature wherein I have been concern'd, I never yet knew one but wherein the Commiſſioners took part with their Inferiour Officers; and if the Complaint was laid againſt the Commiſſioners, the Lords of the Treaſury took part with them, and ſo by a Rotation of Crimes the Publick Welfare was always under a Violent Motion, and the true *Engliſh* Intereſt was Oppreſt by the weight of Iniquity. Some People I know will ſay I reflect in this on the late Government. But I hope they'll give Looſers leave to ſpeak, ſince 'tis all they have for their Money; and let any of 'em venture as far in any Reign in Diſcovery of National Frauds, and *the Corruption of Officers*, as I did in the laſt, and I will aſſure them I wiſh them better Succeſs than I have met with. ——— But pray what farther home-News from *London*?

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, I'll tell you a very Comical Story, which I pick'd up at a Coffee-Houſe from a very honeſt Gentleman. A certain Perſon at *London* kept a *Mag-Pye*, and amongſt other things ſhe had been taught to ſpeak, ſhe had learn't to ſay; *I think the Devil's in you all.* One Sunday Morning, *Mag* having broken the Priſon of her Cage, and being at Liberty, ſhe took the Opportunity to Viſit her Neighbours, in her Rambles *Mag* happen'd to ſtep into the *Whiskers Club* in *Philpot-Lane*, in the time of holding forth, and having percht her ſelf on the Muſick Gallery, on the Right Hand, dapping down her Head, and cocking up her Tail, quoth Magg, *I think the Devil's in you all*; *I think the Devil's in you all*; which having repeated three or four ſeveral times, and the Doctor underſtanding Magg-Pye Language, fixing his Eyes on Mrs. *Margret*, he ſaid unto Her, *Get thee behind me Satan, Avoid Satan*; *I ſay, Get thee behind me Satan.* But Magg not knowing the Whiskers Language, continued ſtill to ſay as ſhe did before, whereupon the Doctor beſpoke the Club, ſaying, *Friends, and Brethren, Reſiſt the Devil and he will flee from you.* At which the Whiskers began to look *more diſmal*, and throwing up their Caps, away flew *Magg*. The Devil being gone, the Doctor proceeded to hold forth.

Advertiſements.

LAtin, French, and High-Dutch, is Taught by Mr. *Switerda*, who has Notified many Years to the Nobility and Gentry his Parts and Talents to teach Children to ſpeak Latin truly and properly, according to Grammar Rules, with as good Grace, as if it were Natural to them; but all the aforeſaid time, few Noblemen and Ladies of Quality, have taken Notice of his Propoſals, which if he had ſent them in any Country beyond Sea, had been well accepted to his great Advantage. If any Noblemans Tutor, can produce before his Grace the Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury* or *York*, a better and eaſier Method by which Children of ſix Years of Age may ſpeak Latin fluently, and give Extempore, a Rule for what they ſay, Mr. *Switerda* obliges himſelf in a Forfeiture of One Hundred Pounds. As for Gentlemen of Age to teach them is one Year the Latin Tongue, and the French in 6 Months time; is not much to admire, chiefly ſuch who will be managed by him. Gentlemen of Age Serviceable to the Publick, in Divinity, Law, and Phyſick, or Teaching of School, may be taught privately at his Houſe in *Arundel-Street* next to the *Temple-Paſſage*, where you may have Latin & French Hiſtorical Cards, & alſo a French Sheet of Paper fit for School-Miſtreſſes. He has alſo Inſtructions for thoſe who live at a diſtance. Every one is to ſtay no longer than an Hour and three times a Week, and is to pay according to his Quality, by the Great or by the Quarter. In the Evening he teacheth abroad, where Gentlemen and Ladies will appoint him, at their own Houſes, or at a Tavern. Youth may Board. He intends to diſpoſe two Copper-Plates containing the Ground of the Latin Tongue, and the higheſt Bidder ſhall have them.

This Day is Publiſhed.

The Second part of The Mouſe grown a Rat: Or the Story of the City and Country Mouſe. Newly Tranſlated, in a Diſcourſe betwixt *Bays*, *Johnſon* and *Smith*, in the preſent Reign. Price 6*d*. Sold by *B. Bragg*, at the *Blew Ball*, in *Avemary Lane*.

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